GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2750
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2017
Development of Superbugs
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether effluents released by the pharmaceutical industries is one of the key factor behind the development of superbugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are no regulations regarding the release of industrial effluents by pharmaceutical companies and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government has taken any steps to monitor the release of effluents by said companies and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)

(a)&(b): Antibiotics released into the environment is one of the key factors leading to development of superbugs. The dumping of antibiotic waste, amongst others, by manufacturing plants creates ideal conditions for proliferation of multidrug-resistant bacteria. Bacteria, in such an environment, shares sections of genetic material with other bacteria resulting in emergence of antibiotic resistant strains (superbugs).

(c): Schedule 'M' to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 prescribes the manner of disposal of waste by the pharmaceutical manufacturing units.

The waste is required to be disposed of in conformity with the requirements of Environment Pollution Control Board. State Licensing Authorities appointed by respective State Governments are empowered to take action under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 thereunder, in case of any non-compliance with the Rules.

(d): The Government of India is aware of the spread of anti-microbial resistance (AMR) due to release of effluents into the environment and has taken steps to contain the same. A National Policy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance, 2011 had been prepared, inter alia, regarding manufacture, use and misuse of antibiotics in the country.